

FORT MYER MILITARY COMMUNITY RETIREE COUNCIL  
C/O RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICE  
FORT MYER, VIRGINIA 22211-1199

IMNE-MY-HRM-R

10 February 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Fort Myer Military Community (FMMC) Quarterly Retiree Council Meeting Minutes

1. The Fort Myer Military Community Retiree quarterly council meeting was held on Thursday, 10 February 2005, at Fort Myer, VA. The meeting convened at 1230 hours. The meeting was co-chaired by COL(R) Frank Cohn. The Council and Residents recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Attendees:

a. Members Present:

COL Cohn, Frank, (USA Ret.), Co-Chairperson  
COL Greenfield, Arlene F., (USA Ret.)  
COL Grier, Reginald C., (USA Ret.)  
COL Howell, Leamon E., (USA Ret.)  
COL Sievers, Ralph, H., (USA Ret.)  
COL Washington, Robert E., (USA Ret.)  
LTC Lemlich, Benjamin R., (USA Ret.)  
LTC Strauss, George H., (USA Ret.)  
MAJ Johnson, Andrew C., (USA Ret.)  
SGM McCoy, Charles E., (USA Ret.)  
MSG Schiebel, David W., (USA Ret.)  
SFC Medley, Walter D., Jr., (USA Ret.)  
SFC Wright, Joyce A., (USA Ret.)  
Mrs. Werth, Hedy  
Mrs. Murray, Joyce A.

b. Members Absent:

SGM, Brown, Robert L., Jr., (USA Ret.), Co-Chair  
SGM Mueller, Grace L., (USA Ret.)  
MSG Petersen, Earl A., (USA Ret.)  
SFC Wright, Luke, (USA Ret.)  
Mrs. Vance, Evelyn L.

c. Others Present:

COL Allmon, Thomas A., Garrison Commander  
Mr. Miller, James A., AG  
Mr. Washington, Kenneth, J., Jr., Chief, CAO  
Ms. Johnson, Earnestine, Retirement Services Officer  
Mrs. McCoy, Mitsuko  
Mrs. Lemlich, Jennie

3. Opening Remarks:

a. COL Cohn presented COL (R) Grier with the Commander's Award for Community Service. The award recognized COL Grier's volunteer service to his community and Fort Myer.

b. COL Cohn formally announced that Ms. Earnestine Johnson, the Fort Myer Retirement Services Officer (RSO), was retiring in March 2005. Ms. Johnson thanked the Chair and the Council for their support throughout the years.

3. Remarks by Mr. Kenneth Washington, Chief Casualty and Mortuary Affairs: Mr. Washington expressed his thanks to the Council for their support for the Army's pilot program which utilizes retirees to perform as Casualty Assistance Officers (CAO) for survivors of retirees. A number of the council members discussed their experiences as a CAO. Mr. Washington encouraged the council to continue to get the word out to the retiree community about this great program.

4. Remarks by COL Allmon, FMMC Garrison Commander's:

a. The Fort Myer budget constraints could impact the Installation's ability to provide certain services. The Garrison Staff is working very hard to ensure quality service continues to be provided. However, every aspect of the budget is being reviewed to reduce waste and find savings through efficiencies.

b. Flu Shots are now available for everyone who would like one at Rader Health Clinic. If you have not done so, please take advantage of that.

c. The ID card Facility will continue to be closed until the completion of an ongoing investigation. As soon as all outstanding issues and concerns are satisfied, the service will be re-continued.

d. We will increase the parking around Building 202 (ID Cards and Retirement Services Office) by making it MPD Customer Parking Only. This will reduce the distance customers have to walk uphill and over rough terrain to utilize these facilities.

e. The Fort Myer web page is up and running. I would like a link for retiree issues. Mr. Miller has the template and will be working with you to get your page up and running.

f. We will work to get a replacement for Ms. Johnson as quickly as possible. Although there is a hiring freeze, we should be able to hire against her position. In the meantime, we will use SGT Price to fill in until the new RSO is on board.

g. The installation extends the use of the Fort Myer Hotline service to the retiree community. Feel free to call the hotline before coming on post in order to have the most up to date information of gate closers, and other issues.

h. Wright Gate will reopen on Monday 14 Feb. Ignore the no left turn sign at Wright Gate.

5. Committee Reports:

a. Services: Be aware of possible reduction in some services due to budget constraints.

b. Medical:

(1) The council would like to look into the possibility of having a quarterly health care council meeting on Fort Myer. Initial coordination is being done to determine the level of interest on Fort Myer to conduct the quarterly meetings. More to follow as information becomes available.

(2) The Fort Belvoir next health care council meeting will be 23 February at 1000 hours.

c. Legislative:

(1) The president's 06 Budget reduces appropriations for VA medical services.

(2) The free death benefit for deceased military personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq will probably be increased to a total of \$ 500,000 on a retroactive basis.

(3) Recently a high civilian DOD official stated, in effect, that military retiree benefits compete with active duty benefits and the latter should have precedence.

(4) Senator Corzine reintroduced a bill from the last Congress to liberalize the SPB widows' offset.

(5) A number of other bills in both Houses of Congress have been introduced that would benefit current and former service members, among them a further expansion of concurrent receipt authority. But their fate is uncertain due to the tight budget situation.

(6) The FMMC Retiree Bulletin is an official U.S. Government publication published semiannually by the Retirement Services Office, with editorial input by members of the Fort Myer Retiree Council and as approved by the Co-Chairs of the

Council as well as by the Fort Myer Staff Judge Advocate. The Bulletin is intended to relay to military retirees and their survivors items of interest to a reasonable percentage of readers in the geographical area of responsibility of FMMC. The Bulletin may not lobby for legislative changes, take political, commercial or religious viewpoints and will not provide detailed information or implementation instructions on nationwide programs covered by other government-wide publications such as Army Echoes. Articles can provide implementation information on national programs as specifically applicable to the Washington area. Articles must have a time line validity for at least 4 months from the submission deadline date

d. Communications:

(1) The next Retiree Appreciation Day is 30 September 2005. Mr Miller invited a member of the council to attend the In Progress Review scheduled for 15 March 2004, at 0900 hour, Bldg 202.

(2) Now is the time to start gathering information for our next retiree bulletin. You must ensure the information meets the regulatory requirements to go into the bulletin. Please pass your articles to the communications chair.

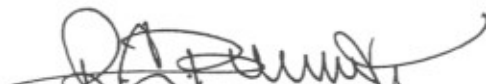
6. Old Business:

a. Creating a retirement web page on the Fort Myer site is ongoing.

b. New Furniture for the Retirement Services Office. Will be installed in March 2005.

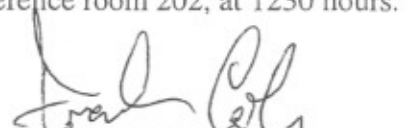
7. New Business: None.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1400 hours. The next meeting time and location is 12, May 2005, in building 205, Conference room 202, at 1230 hours.



ROBERT L. BROWN JR.

SGM, USA Retired  
Co-Chairperson, Retiree Council



FRANK COHN

Colonel, USA Retired  
Co-Chairperson, Retiree Council

CF:

COL Allmon, Garrison Cdr., Fort Myer  
Mr. Miller, AG, Fort Myer  
HQDA, Army Retirement Services